

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Peter William STRATFORD, et al.

Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: December 20, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: BALLOON EXPANDABLE STENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please cancel claims 1-22 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

**Please add the following new claims:**

23. A kit comprising a balloon catheter comprising a balloon at or near its distal end, and a stent mounted on the balloon, wherein the exterior surface of the balloon and stent are provided with a coherent coating comprising a film-forming polymer.
24. A kit according to claim 23 in which the coating is continuous around the circumference of the exterior surface of the balloon and stent over at least a portion of the axial extent of the stent.
25. A kit according to claim 24 in which the coating extends along the entire axial length of the stent.
26. A kit according to claim 25 in which the coating extends beyond both ends of the stent.
27. A kit according to claim 23 in which the polymer of the coating is cross-linked.
28. A kit according to claim 23 in which the polymer has pendent zwitterionic groups.